

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 5 have been canceled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claims 1, 6, 7 and 8. In addition, new claim 16 has been added.

Applicant has amended the specification and claims in a manner that is believed to overcome the drawing, specification and claim objections, as well as the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Thus, withdrawal of these objections and rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that claim 5 has not been rejected based on prior art. Thus, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 5 and intervening claim 2 into the independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 8. Thus, pending claims 1, 3-4 and 6-15 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant also believes that new claim 16 also patentably distinguishes the prior art or record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims are believed to clearly and patentably distinguish the prior of record. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections and passage of this case to issuance at an early date are earnestly solicited.

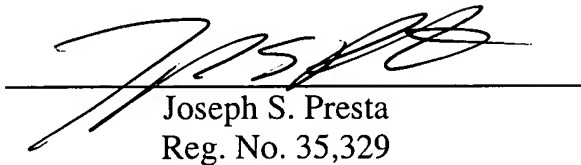
TANAKA, Satoshi
Appl. No. 10/038681
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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, or deem that any further issues need to be addressed prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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